

Members

Michael Kula, Chair
Jeanette Sanchez, Vice Chair
Jasmine Brown
Heide Fernandez-Llamazares
Sarah Jane Hoppe
Marissa Kall
Wade Neal
Derek Nunn
Jamika Scott
Kenya Shakoor
MaryMikel Stump
Alejandra Villeda
Joe Williams
Ton Williams
Heidi Wygle
John Hines, City Council Liaison
Olgy Diaz, City Council Liaison Alternate

Staff

Amy McBride, Tacoma Arts Administrator
Chevi Chung, Community Programs Specialist
Rebecca Solverson, Public Art Specialist
Naomi Strom-Avila, Funding & Cultural Programs Manager

Summary Minutes

Tacoma Arts Commission

Office of Arts & Cultural Vitality

Community & Economic Development Dept.



Date: April 10, 2023

Time: 5:00 pm

Location: Virtual and in-person

These minutes accompany the recorded meeting of the Tacoma Arts Commission, which is available at

www.cityoftacoma.org/tacagendaminutes.

Commission Members in Attendance:

Michael Kula, *Chair*
Jasmine Brown
Heide Fernandez-Llamazares
Sarah Jane Hoppe
Wade Neal
Derek Nunn
Jamika Scott
Kenya Shakoor
MaryMikel Stump
Alejandra Villeda
Joe Williams
Heidi Wygle

City Staff Present:

Chevi Chung
Naomi Strom-Avila
Rebecca Solverson
Amy McBride
Lisa Jaret

Commission Members Excused Absence:

Jeanette Sanchez
Ton Williams

Commission Members Unexcused Absence:

Marissa Kall

1. Call to Order

5:07 pm (00:00)

Chair Kula called the meeting to order. Chair Kula recognized that the meeting was held on Indigenous land: the traditional homelands of the Puyallup people.

ʔukʷədiitəb ʔuhigʷətəb čəł txʷəl tiit ʔa čəł ʔal tə swatxʷixʷtxʷəd ʔə tiit puyaləpabš dxʷəsłəłils gʷəl ʔutxʷəlšucidəbs həlgʷəʔ.

“We gratefully acknowledge that we rest on the traditional lands of the Puyallup People where they make their home and speak the Lushootseed language.”

2. Consent Agenda

(00:53)

Commissioners Sanchez and Williams had excused absences.

Staff requested to move the Tacoma Mall Area Plan Artist Selection action item to a future meeting.

Chair Kula asked for a motion to approve the revised agenda as well as the minutes from the March meetings.

There was a motion: "I move to consent."

Motion: Commissioner Wygle

Seconded: Commissioner Stump

Motion: Carried

Commissioners shared reflections on the life and work of Chandler O'Leary.

3. Chair's Report/Housekeeping

(14:28)

Chair Kula led a check-in around the values-based behaviors developed by the DEI Subcommittee in 2022:

- Be a safe space maker
- Be yourself
- Practice empathy and respect
- Speak and share responsibly
- Be willing to experience discomfort and accept differences
- Hold each other accountable with care, being mindful of intentions and context
- Be open to learning; learning is iterative, and perfection is not achievable
- Be a support for each other

Commissioner Williams encouraged Commissioners to read the introduction to Kellie Richardson's book, *The Art of Naming My Pain*, on the subjectivity of safe spaces.

4. Public Comment

(18:36)

There were no public comments on agenda items.

5. Presentations

a. 2023-25 Tacoma Poet Laureate

(19:27)

Staff introduced Christian Paige, 2023-25 Tacoma Poet Laureate, and Christian gave an introduction and background about himself and delivered a poem. Christian shared his two-part vision for his role as poet laureate: first, that it is important for youth voices to be heard, and second, ensuring that voices of Black, Indigenous, and people of color do not get lost by creating active spaces for these voices. There was a discussion with Commissioners.

Commissioners Brown, Stump, Villeda, and Fernandez-Llamazares volunteered to help at the Pass the Torch event.

b. Sidewalk Mural in Dome District

(37:05)

Staff introduced artist David Long. David gave a presentation with the background on his proposed sidewalk mural followed by a discussion with Commissioners. There were concerns and questions raised about around the sourcing, authorship, anonymity, compensation, and crediting of people's quotes used in this project. Next step will be voting at the May 8 Commission meeting.

6. Action Items

a. Traffic Box Art Wraps Artist Selection

(01:15:43)

Staff presented work samples of the 17 artists who were recommended by the panel to create artwork for the 2023 Traffic Box Art Wraps. The artists are: RR Anderson, Curtis Ashby, Anna Brones, Joseph Brooks, Bethnay Fackrell, Jeremy Gregory, Rodney King, Felina Martens, Mark Monlux, Loretta Morgan Fernandez, J.J. Noll, Jesse Peterson, Matamatanonofo Porter, Zak Rivera, Linda Sholberg, Mark Smith, and Anna Warnecke.

The selection panel reviewed 120 eligible applicants. Commissioners Shakoor, Stump, and Brown served on the panel, along with community members. Commissioners asked questions and discussed.

There was a motion “I motion to approve the seventeen finalists.”

Motion: Commissioner Hoppe

Second: Commissioner Wygle

Motion: Carried

7. Discussion/Updates

a. 2022 Annual Report Overview

(01:25:50)

Staff shared the Office of Arts & Cultural Vitality’s 2022 Annual Report, highlighting the Arts Overview and ‘Impact by Council District’ sections, inclusion of quantitative and qualitative data through quotes and photos, links to videos, the new addition of a panelist section, and the Tacoma Creates overview with a link to Tacoma Creates’ full report. Commissioners discussed.

b. Council Coffee Talking Points

(01:32:40)

The 2022 Annual Report is a foundation for Council Coffee meetings. Staff briefly shared an outline of talking points for Council Coffees and asked Commissioners if there were any items the Commission wanted to advocate for or bring up in these meetings. Commissioners discussed. Staff asked for volunteer signups for the Council Coffee meetings.

c. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Subcommittee

(01:39:58)

Commissioner Williams gave a report out about the Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI) subcommittee meeting on March 16 including their desire to create a Labor Acknowledgement to follow the Land Acknowledgement for public meetings, panels, and events. The next DEI subcommittee meeting is April 20 at 4 PM.

8. Staff Check-In

a. Staff Projects Overview and Updates

(01:43:18)

Staff gave updates about the following items:

- Pass the Torch will be held on April 12, 6-7 pm, at the Moore Library and livestreamed. Current poet laureate Lydia K. Valentine will welcome in Christian Paige. Staff asked for commission volunteers to help with set up, tear down, and in greeting attendees.
- Upcoming Resources for Creatives:
 - April 19, from 6-7:30pm, is the LGBTQ+ Core Competency workshop presented by Rainbow Center and led by Charlie Best, Education Manager.

- April 13, Artist Trust and Tacoma Arts Live are hosting a free workshop, Marketing and Building Your Network, from 6-8 PM at the Tacoma Armory. Registration is required to attend.
- The following dates are set for Tacoma Arts Month 2023: Proclamation on September 26, Kaleidoscope at STAR Center on October 5 with setup on October 4, Tacoma Studio Tour on October 14 and 15, and Arts at the Armory on November 11 and 12.
- Staff reminded Commissioners to submit content for the social media spotlight.
- Tacoma Artists Initiative Program (TAIP) funding contracts are underway and artists will be gathering for their first cohort meeting on April 13.
- Overview of TAIP mid-project meetings and Commission volunteer signups.

b. Public Art Updates

(01:49:19)

Staff gave an update about Jorge Garcia’s mural on the jersey barriers at S. 38th Street between State Route 7 and McKinley Ave.

c. Tacoma Creates

(01:50:45)

In partnership with Colemon & Associates, Tacoma Creates will be offering a JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion) Film Series: a screening of the docuseries Exterminate All the Brutes at The Grand Cinema. On April 12 and 19, and May 3 and 10, a different episode from this 4-part docuseries will be shown, with a short panel discussion following.

9. Report Back

a. Advocacy Reports

(01:53:10)

There were no advocacy reports.

b. Funded Project Updates/Arts Events Attended

(01:53:10)

Chair Kula gave a shout out to Vice Chair Sanchez’s theatrical play opening. Commissioner Fernandez-Llamazares attended Tacoma Opera’s production of *Tacoma Method*.

c. Future Agenda Items for Consideration

(01:53:43)

Chair Kula suggested a future discussion about how to honor artists in the community who have passed.

10. Adjourn

7:03 pm (01:55:59)

MEETING FREQUENCY

Meetings are held on the second Monday of every month at 5:00 pm. All meetings of the Tacoma Arts Commission are open to the public.



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